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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RICHARD GINN

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Herewith (February 5, 2004)

For: Apparatus and Methods for Treating  
Spinal Discs

)  
) Previous Group Art Unit: 3732  
)  
) Previous Examiner: Eduardo C.  
) Robert  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
(37 C.F.R. §1.8a)

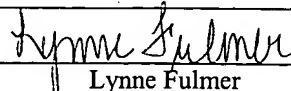
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to the MAIL STOP PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Express Mail No.: EV 339737965 US

Date of Deposit February 5, 2004

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Lynne Fulmer